



Time Path Path Number of Estimated March 1997

Local/ Length Width Persons Damage

Location Date Standard (Miles) (Yards) Killed Injured Property Crops Character of Storm

ILLINOIS, South

ILZ084-088-092

Jackson - Union - Alexander

01 0001CST 22 0800CST 0 0 20K

Flood

The Mississippi River remained above flood stage from late February well into March at Thebes. The river crested about 6 feet above flood stage at Thebes on March 3, then a couple feet over flood stage on the 17th. Generally minor to moderate flooding of the river caused agricultural fields to flood. Water lapped against some of the levees, including the one near Ware. A half mile stretch of Old Cape Road was closed because of 8 inches of water across it.

ILZ075-081-084

Jefferson - Franklin - Jackson

01 0001CST 25 2000CST 0 20K

Flood

The Big Muddy River crested about 10 feet above flood stage at Murphysboro on March 4. Extensive flooding of low farmland and fields occurred, but few homes were affected.

ILZ087-090>094

Gallatin - Pope - Hardin - Alexander - Pulaski - Massac

01 0800CST 31 2359CST

0

2.5M

Flood

A massive flood crest moved down the Ohio River during the first few weeks of March. Around 10 inches of rain fell in the middle Ohio River Valley from the Louisville area to Cincinnati within a one to three day period. This resulted in the worst river flood in about 30 years along the Illinois shore, and one of the five worst on record. Riverfront neighborhoods in Metropolis were evacuated, and the riverboat casino was briefly shut down. Smaller communities protected by levies or floodwalls, such as Brookport and Old Shawneetown, fared better. A mechanical problem with a valve in Brookport allowed Ohio River water to back into the town, causing tens of thousands of dollars in property damage there. Massive sandbag levees were constructed by volunteers in most unprotected riverfront communities, including Metropolis, Ridgway, Elizabethtown, and Omaha. A towboat struck the Shawneetown bridge, prompting its closure until it could be inspected. A voluntary evacuation of Old Shawneetown was conducted. The levee protecting the town developed a few seeps, but no major leaks were observed. A total of about 50 families were displaced by flooding in Gallatin County, mainly from the towns of Junction, Equality, and New Haven. Numerous county roads were closed near the river, including 52 just in Gallatin County alone. All but one road into the town of Junction was flooded. A few state highways, such as Illinois Route 1 in Gallatin County, were closed by high water. In Pope County, between 30 and 50 families were affected by flooding of the Ohio River or Lusk Creek, which flows into the Ohio at Golconda. About 50 Massac County families were forced out of their homes by the Ohio River or Mud Creek, which runs through the center of Metropolis into the Ohio. In Pulaski County, the flood forced the temporary abandonment of the Olmsted Lock and Dam construction project. Engineers decided to let water flood the project area, which had been protected by a cofferdam. If floodwater had crested over the top of the cofferdam, it could have undermined the structure. About 250 workers were laid off when the project was halted. Water backed up the Saline River from the Ohio River, causing problems as far inland as Harrisburg in Saline County. A mud slide at the old Lock and Dam 51 site demolished the office area and heavily damaged other buildings. In Hardin County, the Saline River flooded about 34 homes and forced workers to rescue two people in Saline Landing. The following are specific river crest heights and the flood stages for various points: Shawneetown crested at 54.40 (flood stage 33 feet), Brookport crested at 53.60 feet (flood stage is 37 feet), and Cairo crested at 56.20 feet (flood stage is 40 feet). The crest occurred on the 11th or 12th at all points.

Hardin County Elizabethtown

01 1500CST 1700CST 0 0 30K

Flash Flood

Road and stream flooding was extensive.



2 SE Vienna

01

1805CST

National Weather Service Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



March 1997 Time Local Path Length Path Number of Estimated Persons Width Damage **ILLINOIS, South Massac County Brookport** 01 1500CST 1700CST 0 0 Flash Flood A period of thunderstorms during the morning caused flooding of roads and creeks. Water was across U.S. Highway 45 in spots. Massac Creek was out of its banks. **Pope County** Eddyville 1500CST 1700CST 50K Flash Flood 01 Highways 145 and 146, the two main arteries through Pope County, were closed by high water and debris. A vehicle attempting to cross a flooded highway became submerged in floodwater. A Pope County sheriffs deputy rescued the sole occupant of the vehicle, a female who was hanging from the luggage rack on the vehicle. The sheriffs deputy waded through the water and carried her to safety. Both the officer and the victim were treated for hypothermia at a local hospital. Several roads were washed out by flash flooding, mainly forest service roads or private drives. **Alexander County** Cairo 400K Flash Flood 01 A pump operated by the Army Corps of Engineers failed in Cairo, contributing to the flooding of about 160 basements. Rainfall totals in the 3 to 5 inch range over a 48-hour period caused a few road washouts. **Hardin County** 1730CST 2030CST Flash Flood Elizabethtown 01 Significant flooding of roads and streams occurred. Neighboring counties reported vehicles stranded in deep water. Similar rainfall amounts occurred in Hardin County. **Johnson County** Vienna 1730CST 20K Flash Flood 2030CST Significant flooding of roads and streams was caused by a series of thunderstorms over a 2-day period. **Massac County** Metropolis 01 1730CST 2030CST 0 50K Flash Flood Around 6 inches of rain in 24 hours caused extensive flooding of streams and roads. A state of emergency was declared by the Illinois governor, which was later upgraded to a federal disaster area. Two county roads were closed in Massac County. One was closed by a bridge washout, and water rushing across the other road created a 15-foot wide gap. So many roads were damaged that the county highway department ran out of barricades. **Pope County Bay City** 1730CST Flash Flood 2030CST A vehicle was washed off Highway 145 near Bay City. **Pulaski County** 1730CST 2030CST Mounds 20K Flash Flood This final round of thunderstorms caused widespread flooding of roads and streams. No injuries or evacuations were reported **Massac County** 1 N Big Bay 01 1805CST 0 Thunderstorm Wind (52) Large tree limbs were blown down. Johnson County

0

0

Thunderstorm Wind (52)





March 1997 Time Local Path Length Path Number of Estimated Width Persons Damage **ILLINOIS, South** Trees were down along Interstate 24. **ILZ083** White 1200CST 10K Flood 0800CST The Little Wabash River crested about 3 feet above flood stage at Carmi during mid month. There was minor flooding of low farmland and fields. Some roads were covered by water. Few if any homes were flooded. **Perry County** 5 N Pinckneyville 28 1530CST 10K Hail(1.75) Golf ball size hail was reported throughout northwest Perry County, including Winkle, Rice, and Swanwick. The hail dented cars and broke windows. The siding of a trailer was pulled off. **Jefferson County** 1559CST Hail(0.75) Scheller 28 0 **Perry County** Du Quoin 28 1607CST Hail(0.75) **Jefferson County** 1610CST Mt Vernon 28 Hail(1.75) **Jackson County** 7 S Murphysboro to 3 S Carbondale 0 50K 28 Hail(1.75) Large hail ranging from dime to golf ball size caused damage across parts of Jackson County. Wind gusts were clocked to 52 MPH at the Carbondale Airport. Wayne County Fairfield 28 1658CST 0 Hail(0.75) **Pulaski County** Ullin 28 1711CST 0 Hail(1.75) State police reported golf ball size hail at the Ullin headquarters. White County Carmi 28 1724CST 0 0 Thunderstorm Wind (52) A spotter estimated wind gusts around 60 MPH. **Pulaski County** 3 SW Karnak 28 1732CST **Funnel Cloud** A fire chief reported the funnel cloud. The storm producing this funnel cloud tracked across northern Massac and Pope Counties, producing more funnel clouds and large hail. **Massac County New Columbia** 28 1752CST **Funnel Cloud** A supercell thunderstorm tracked across northern Massac and southern Johnson Counties. A spotter recorded a rotating wall cloud and brief funnel cloud on videotape near the New Columbia exit of Interstate 24. **Johnson County** Reevesville 28 1759CST 0 A supercell thunderstorm tracked east along the Massac/Johnson County line. Large hail occurred on the north and northeast side of the storm, including extreme southern Johnson County. **Pope County** 10 ENE Dixon Spgs **Funnel Cloud** A severe thunderstorm that tracked from Pulaski County east across Pope County produced brief funnel clouds and large hail. A

spotter took videotape of a funnel cloud as he drove east along Illinois 146 through Pope County





March 1997 Time Local Path Length Path Number of Estimated Width Persons Damage **ILLINOIS, South Saline County** Stonefort 28 1850CST 0 0 Hail(1.00) INDIANA, Southwest INZ085>088 Posey - Vanderburgh - Warrick - Spencer 1200CST 1400CST 0 2.5M Flood Widespread rainfall amounts around 10 inches in the middle Ohio Valley, from around Louisville to Cincinnati, occurred over a one to three day period. This resulted in a massive flood crest that took a few weeks to travel down the Ohio River. The resultant flood was the worst in about 30 years, and one of the five worst on record. Water from the Ohio River backed up into the Pigeon Creek, which flows through Evansville. About 60 homes were evacuated along Pigeon Creek, and two bridges over the creek were closed. In Warrick County, just a few families were forced from their homes. Numerous roads were closed for days at a time, including at least 50 in Spencer County alone. The banks along Newburgh's scenic riverfront were damaged. Indiana Route 662 and Water Street were closed in Newburgh by high water. In eastern Warrick County, backwater from the Ohio flooded Caney and Little Pigeon Creeks, flooding a few houses. In Spencer County, which was declared a disaster area, U.S. Route 231 was closed north of Rockport along with a few state highways. The town of Grandview in Spencer County was hardest hit, where about half of the town's 700 residents evacuated. All barge traffic was halted on the Ohio River upstream from Newburgh. Near Evansville, a few families were evacuated by boat. INZ081-085 Gibson - Posey 02 28 10K 2200CST The Wabash River flooded mainly agricultural low-lying areas. Some roads and parking lots were also flooded. A few campgrounds were flooded near the confluence of the White and Wabash Rivers. The Wabash crested about 4 feet above flood stage at New Harmony on March 9. Gibson County 20K Thunderstorm Wind 1.2 N Princeton 1750CST A farm building was damaged. Power lines were down. Vanderburgh County Mc Cutchanville 28 1755CST 0 0 Thunderstorm Wind (52) Isolated trees were blown down. Vanderburgh County Evansville 1800CST 60K 0 Lightning Lightning struck a house, setting it on fire Pike County 1840CST Petersburg 28 5K Thunderstorm Wind Trees and power lines were blown down in a 5 mile wide area. **Spencer County** Santa Claus 28 1852CST 0 Thunderstorm Wind (52) Wind gusts were estimated near 60 MPH. A funnel cloud was reported near Dale.

KENTUCKY, Southwest

Graves County

6 W Mayfield 01 0730CST 0 1 40K Thunderstorm Wind

A mobile home was overturned and demolished. A female sustained minor injuries.





March 1997 Time Local Path Length Path Number of Estimated Persons Width Damage **KENTUCKY**, Southwest **Caldwell County** Princeton 01 0930CST 1400CST 0 0 Flash Flood Flooding of streets and low spots occurred during this round of storms. More storms during the evening produced major flash flooding. **Calloway County** Flash Flood Murray 1400CST Flooding of streets and low spots was fairly common. Major flooding occurred when another round of storms passed through during **Carlisle County** 0930CST **Bardwell** 01 Flash Flood Flooding of creeks and roads was fairly common. **Christian County** 0930CST 1400CST 0 Hopkinsville 01 0 Flash Flood Periods of thunderstorms that began on the 28th and continued through the morning of the 1st produced copious rainfall amounts up to 8 inches. A state of emergency was declared countywide early on March 1. The Little River, which flows through Hopkinsville, reached one of its highest stages in memory. Massive flooding along the Little River prompted the closure of Interstate 24. Extensive flooding resulted in numerous evacuations and road closures. Another round of thunderstorms later in the day caused more flooding Crittenden County Flash Flood Marion 01 0930CST Thunderstorms during the day produced very heavy rainfall amounts to around 6 inches. State Route 855 was closed. **Daviess County** Owensboro 01 0930CST 1400CST Flash Flood High water inundated numerous secondary roads. **Fulton County** 0930CST **Fulton** 20K Flash Flood Although not as hard hit as counties to the east, Fulton County experienced significant flooding of creeks and roads. Kentucky Routes 925, 1129, 94, and 1354 were closed in spots for days. **Graves County** Mayfield 01 0930CST 1400CST Flash Flood 0 A slow-moving area of thunderstorms produced very heavy rain. A cooperative observer measured about 4 inches of rain, including 2 inches in 2 hours at Mayfield. Street flooding was fairly common. U.S. 45 was covered by two feet of water. **Hickman County** Clinton 01 0930CST 10K Flash Flood Although not as hard hit as counties to the north and east, Hickman County experienced significant stream and road flooding. Kentucky Routes 123, 51, and 924 were closed for days. **Hopkins County** Madisonville 250K 01 0930CST 1400CST Flash Flood This was the second round of intense rainfall across Hopkins County. The first round during the previous evening caused no

Several Madisonville businesses were closed by flooding. Numerous roads were closed.

problems, but these storms brought 24-hour rainfall totals to near 5 inches. More than 40 people were evacuated from their homes.





March 1997 Time Local Path Length Path Number of Estimated Persons Width Damage **KENTUCKY**, Southwest **Livingston County Smithland** 01 0930CS 0 0 Flash Flood Thunderstorms produced flooding of streets and urban areas. The most serious flooding occurred during the final round of storms in the evening of the 1st. **Lyon County** Eddyville 0930CST Flash Flood 1400CST Flooding of streets and creeks was common. **Marshall County Benton** 01 Flash Flood A slow-moving area of thunderstorms produced 2 to 4 inches of rain within a few hours. This resulted in flooding of several roads, along with rapid rises in streams and creeks. A housing complex in Benton was evacuated when a nearby creek flooded Mccracken County **Paducah** 01 0930CST 1400CST Flash Flood This was the second round of thunderstorms during the past 18 hours. The slow-moving storms raised 18-hour rainfall amounts to near 4 inches. Two feet of water was reported over U.S. 45. Flooding of low spots and streets was especially common in the Reidland and Farley areas. **Mclean County** 0930CST 1400CST Calhoun 01 Flash Flood Flooding of streets and creeks was common. Thunderstorms later in the day produced more severe flooding **Muhlenberg County Central City** 01 Flash Flood This second round of flash flooding was somewhat more serious than the flooding the previous evening. Thunderstorms during the morning produced another 2 to 4 inches of rain, which boosted rainfall totals to near 6 inches locally. The third and most serious round of flooding occurred later in the day, when another 1 or 3 inches of rain fell in a short period of time. **Todd County** Elkton 01 0930CST 0 Flash Flood A prolonged period of thunderstorms lasting from the evening of the 28th through the morning of the 1st dropped copious amounts of rainfall, up to 6 inches. The town of Elkton was virtually isolated when all roads leading to Elkton became flooded. **Trigg County** Cadiz Flash Flood 01 1400CST Thunderstorms produced flooding of streams and roads. **Union County** Morganfield 01 Flash Flood 1400CST Numerous thunderstorms produced flooding of roads and creeks. These storms saturated the ground with 2 to 4 inches of rain, setting the stage for storms later in the day that produced 3 to 5 inches in a short time. **Webster County Providence** 01 0930CST 0 Flash Flood

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These storms produced flooding of streets and creeks. The ground became saturated, setting the stage for more storms later in the





March 1997 Time Local Path Length Path Number of Estimated Width Persons Damage **KENTUCKY**, Southwest KYZ018>020 Henderson - Daviess - Mclean 1300CST 19.5M Flood Historic flooding occurred along the Green River as a result of widespread rainfall between 5 and 10 inches across central and western Kentucky. Virtually the entire town of Rumsey was evacuated before it was inundated by the Green River. About 20 percent of Calhoun was underwater, and small parts of Livermore were affected In Daviess County, backwater from the Green River slowed drainage of Panther Creek, causing parts of Owensboro to flood. Many schools were out for one to two weeks. The National Guard was mobilized to help with looting prevention, rescue efforts, and sandbagging. Daviess County was especially hard hit due to the combined effects of major flooding along the Green River, Ohio River, and Panther Creek. U.S. 431 was closed at the Panther Creek, where numerous buildings were flooded. **Ballard County** Blandville 01 1700CST 2100CST 10K Flash Flood Road and creek flooding was common, but the most severe flash flooding occurred in counties to the east **Ballard County** Wickliffe 01 0 Flash Flood A severe thunderstorm passing through the county produced more very heavy rain on top of saturated ground. Roads and streams experienced moderate to major flooding. The worst flooding was due to the Ohio River during mid-month. **Caldwell County** Princeton 01 100K Flash Flood Eight to 9 inches of rainfall within a 3-day period caused extensive flooding of creeks and roads. Roads were closed at some point during the flooding to the north, south, and east of Princeton. U.S. 62 was closed near Princeton. Several Princeton businesses were flooded. Some houses were evacuated. **Calloway County** Murray 01 100K Flash Flood Numerous thunderstorms during a 24 hour period produced cumulative rainfall totals near 5 inches. Water was 5 to 6 feet over roadways near the Clarks River. A few mobile homes and a couple of vehicles were flooded. A parking lot at Murray-Calloway County Hospital was flooded with 1 to 3 feet of water. About an inch of water entered the medical labs. Emergency personnel used jet skis to rescue an elderly woman and her son from their home. High water closed numerous roads, including Highways 121 and 464. Flooded and washed out roads made it impossible for utility crews to reach some power lines downed by wind or lightning **Carlisle County** Bardwell 01 Flash Flood This round of thunderstorms was the final in a series of storms. It resulted in considerable flooding of streams and low lying areas **Christian County** Flash Flood Hopkinsville 01 40M



Livingston County Smithland

National Weather Service Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



March 1997 Time Local Path Length Path Number of Estimated Persons Width Damage **KENTUCKY**, Southwest declared a federal and state disaster area. About 8 inches of rain fell in a 30-hour period. Parts of downtown Hopkinsville were flooded by the Little River for the first time since 1957. Roads and bridges were washed out Crittenden County Marion 01 10K Flash Flood This was the final round in a series of storms that produced up to 8 inches of rain in 2 days. Kentucky Highway 1917 was closed in spots for days. **Daviess County** Flash Flood Owensboro 01 40K Flash flooding destroyed a bridge. Eight mobile homes were evacuated. About a dozen vehicles were stalled. About 85 residents of a nursing home in Owensboro were evacuated as water crept inside. The flash flooding later contributed to rapid rises on Panther Creek, which flows through the south side of Owensboro. About a dozen homes along U.S. 431 flooded quickly. **Fulton County** Fulton 01 0 300K Flash Flood 1715CST 2045CST Most of the flood damage was to roads and public property. Only two privately-owned buildings were damaged. **Graves County** Mayfield 01 0 70K Flash Flood 2045CST About 6 inches of rain within 48 hours caused flash flooding of roads and streams. Minor flooding of a nursing home was reported Only a few evacuations were necessary. U.S. 45 was closed by high water between Water Valley and Wingo. Extensive flooding of streets and creeks occurred in Mayfield, but few if any buildings were affected. **Henderson County** Henderson 01 40K Flash Flood Torrential downpours falling on saturated ground resulted in widespread road and creek flooding. Numerous motorists were stranded in high water. High water swept one car from Kentucky 351 near Zion. Divers located the female occupant of the vehicle. She was taken to a local hospital. **Hickman County** Clinton 01 10K Flash Flood This was the final round of storms over a 48-hour period. It dumped very heavy rain on saturated ground, causing moderate to major flooding of roads and streams. **Hopkins County** Madisonville 01 Flash Flood This was the third round of thunderstorms within a 36-hour period. It brought the rainfall total at Dawson Springs to 6.65 inches since the night of February 28. Most of the damage to roads and private property was already done during the second event in the morning hours. A crack in a dam holding back a 24-acre lake was later found to be insignificant. About 220 homes in the county received water damage. Major flooding of the Tradewater River inundated rural land around Dawson Springs

01 1715CST 0 0 100K Flash Flood

Most of the flood damage was caused by the Ohio River and its backwater. However, significant flash f

Most of the flood damage was caused by the Ohio River and its backwater. However, significant flash flooding of roads and low-lying areas occurred on the 1st. In Smithland and Salem, there were numerous reports of homes and businesses with flooded



Dixon

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National Weather Service Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



March 1997 Time Local Path Length Path Number of Estimated Width Persons Damage **KENTUCKY**, Southwest basements. **Lyon County** Eddyville 01 Flash Flood Flash flooding caused some roads to cover with water, including one that nearly collapsed. **Marshall County** Benton 1715CST 2045CST Flash Flood 01 Flash flooding resulted in some damage to roads, especially gravel county roads. Highway 80 was partially closed by flooding **Mccracken County** 70K Paducah 01 Flash Flood A violent thunderstorm moved across the county, dumping torrential downpours on ground that was already soaked by heavy rain earlier in the day. Over five inches of rain fell at Paducah for the day. Heavy rains caused part of the roof at Paducah Middle School to cave in. Some homes were flooded. Widespread flooding of streets and highways stranded many motorists. **Mclean County** Flash Flood Calhoun 01 1715CST 2045CST 800K Routes 231, 81, and 136 were under water in places. **Muhlenberg County Central City** 300K 01 2045CST A 41-year-old male drowned in Cypress Creek near Central City around 5 P.M. The man was attempting to ride in a rubber inner-tube on a swollen portion of the creek. Witnesses report the current forced him under a concrete bridge. The body was located a few days later. This was the third and most significant round of thunderstorms, bringing 3-day rainfall totals to near 8 inches in spots. The result was widespread flash flooding of roads and small rivers. About a dozen roads were damaged, including State Route 973 near U.S. 431, which was closed by a mud slide. U.S. 62 was closed at the Hopkins County line. A total of about 30 roads were damaged or covered by water for days. M41IW **Todd County** Elkton 200K Flash Flood 01 U.S. Highway 68 and Kentucky Route 181 were closed out of Elkton **Trigg County** Cadiz 01 70K Flash Flood This was the final round in a series of storms that dropped nearly 8 inches of rain in 48 hours. Kentucky Highways 139, 1253, 272, and 1507 were closed in spots for days. **Union County** Morganfield 01 100K Flash Flood 2045CST The Union County Shopping Center parking lot rapidly filled with five to six feet of water. Several vehicles were partially or totally covered with water. Many employees were trapped in the stores and had to be rescued by large trucks. Most cities in the county were cut off from outside traffic for at least two to three hours. Up to four inches of rain fell within four hours. **Webster County**

70K

Flash Flood





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Local/ Verde Wiles Property Crops Character of Storm

KENTUCKY, Southwest

Highway 41A was closed between Providence and Madisonville. One woman was evacuated from the northwestern part of the county as backwater from the Tradewater River rose. A cooperative observer in Sebree measured 7.57 inches of rain in three days. A woman was forced to swim out of rising waters when her van was swept off Highway 138 in Slaughters. In another case, a man and woman were rescued from the roof of their pick-up truck when they attempted to drive through high water near Deer Creek on Highway 132. Some residents in low areas in Slaughters and Sebree were forced from their homes.

Mclean County 3 N Livermore to 3.3 N Livermore

A state trooper witnessed a brief tornado touchdown in open country moving east near Highway 431. No damage could be found.

Marshall County

Calvert City to 01 1915CST 0 0 Thunderstorm Wind (52) Palma 1925CST

A wind gust to 63 MPH was measured near Calvert City. At least two people reported hearing a roaring noise as a possible funnel cloud passed over northern Marshall County.

Mccracken County

Lone Oak 01 1923CST 0 0 Thunderstorm Wind (52)

Some tree damage was reported near the Lone Oak and Hendron areas.

Livingston County

Iuka 01 1935CST 0 0 Thunderstorm Wind (52)

Isolated small to medium size trees were blown down.

 $KYZ004 > 005\text{-}007\text{-}010\text{-}014\text{-} \ Ballard - Mccracken - Livingston - Crittenden - Union - Henderson - Daviess$

018>019

02 1000CST 0 0 25M Flood 31 1900CST

Major flooding of the lower Ohio River occurred in mid March. The crest near 52 feet at Paducah was the highest since about 1950, and one of the worst floods on record. It was still well below the record 60-foot crest in the Flood of 1937. The President declared most western Kentucky counties along the river to be disaster areas. Widespread rainfall amounts between 8 and 13 inches upriver from Evansville to Cincinnati occurred within a three day period. This resulted in a major flood crest that took a few weeks to travel down the Ohio River. Hundreds of homes were evacuated along the western Kentucky side of the Ohio River. A county by county list of evacuations includes 200 homes in McCracken County, 20 homes in Ballard County, 10 homes in Livingston County, and 200 homes in Henderson County. Daviess County experienced severe problems as a result of the combined effects of major flooding along the Ohio and Green Rivers. Tributaries that flow into the Ohio River backed up, causing serious flooding many miles away from the Ohio. For example, the Tradewater River flooded back into Webster County, causing evacuations at Blackford. At least 60 families were forced from their homes in Webster County, partly due to flash flooding. The Clarks River, which flows into the Ohio River near Paducah, also flooded houses in McCracken County. Most major cities along the Ohio River in west Kentucky were spared from major damage by floodwalls and levees. First Street in downtown Owensboro was flooded. The Executive Inn, a major hotel and retail complex in Paducah, was closed for the first time in its 15-year history. Smaller communities not protected by flood control structures were endangered. The town of Smithland, about 20 miles east of Paducah, was saved by a massive sandbagging effort that lasted over two weeks. Numerous roads were closed across the lower Ohio Valley, including sections of U.S. 60 near Smithland, Henderson, and Owensboro. The bridge connecting Wickliffe, Ky and Cairo, Il was closed for about a week. The National Guard was called in to patrol for looters, control access to restricted areas, and pump out water. TVA dams on the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers mitigated the flooding from Smithland downstream, but were still releasing huge volumes of water due to flooding in the Tennessee Valley. Flooding downstream from Kentucky Dam affected Calvert City. Agricultural damage was very limited because most crops were not yet planted. The hardest hit crop was the winter wheat crop. An estimated total of 130,000 acres of cropland was submerged in the six westernmost Kentucky counties. Some Ohio River crests include: 53.8 feet at Uniontown (flood stage 37 feet), 51.4 feet at Smithland (flood stage 40 feet), and 51.8 feet at Paducah (flood stage 39 feet).





March 1997 Time Local Path Length Path Number of Estimated Width Persons Damage **KENTUCKY**, Southwest **Daviess County** Moseleyville 03 0 0 Flash Flood Around an inch of rain fell within a couple of hours. This rain aggravated flooding of low lying areas that was already in progress. Panther Creek reportedly rose out of its banks. **Muhlenberg County** Greenville 28 1635CST Hail(0.88) **Todd County Trenton** 28 1704CST 0 0 Hail(1.00) **Marshall County** 1 W Benton 28 1905CST O Hail(1.00) 0 **Webster County** 1910CST Hail(1.75) 3 N Dixon 28 **Daviess County** 1930CST 1949CST 0 St Joseph to 28 0 Hail(1.00) 2 E Owensboro A thunderstorm produced hail ranging from dime to quarter size. The large hail occurred in a narrow swath from St. Joseph, near the Mclean County line, directly across the city of Owensboro **Mclean County Beech Grove** 28 1945CST Hail(0.75) MISSOURI, Southeast MOZ076-087-111>112-114 Perry - Cape Girardeau - Scott - Mississippi - New Madrid 150K Flood A death occurred when an 18-year-old girl lost control of her vehicle and went off a levee which bound backwater from the Mississippi River. This death occurred around 4:30 A.M. about 9 miles east of Portageville, Missouri. The most significant flooding occurred downriver from Cairo, including New Madrid, due mainly to a massive flood crest from the Ohio River. A Red Cross shelter was opened in East Prairie. About 30 county roads were closed, as was Big Oak Tree State Park. Several businesses along the levees were affected, including a grain elevator company. Around 50,000 sandbags were issued by the Corps Of Engineers. A drainage levee failed near Sikeston, impacting fewer than 50 homes. The Army Corps of Engineers declared a Mississippi River flood emergency and monitored levees south of Sikeston. In Mississippi County, about 114 homes were impacted by seep and impound water, with 4 homes reported with water inside. F18VE **Cape Girardeau County** 1500CST Cape Girardeau 0 Flash Flood Cumulative rainfall totals over the past two days were near 4 inches in spots. Road and stream flooding was fairly common. **Ripley County** Briar 01 1600CST 0 Thunderstorm Wind (52) Large trees, averaging 2 to 3 feet in diameter, were blown down. **Carter County** Grandin 20K Thunderstorm Wind

A garage was blown down, along with some trees





March 1997 Time Local Path Length Path Number of Estimated Width Persons Damage MISSOURI, Southeast **Bollinger County Marble Hill** 01 1700CST 2030CST 0 0 Flash Flood Repeat thunderstorms caused flooding of roads and streams. No severe problems were reported. **Butler County Poplar Bluff** 01 Flash Flood 2030CST 8 to 10 inches of water was over some roads. **Carter County** Flash Flood Van Buren 01 Road and stream flooding was fairly common, but no severe problems were reported. This flooding was caused by the final round of thunderstorms that occurred over a 2 day period. Mississippi County 1700CST 2000CST 40K Charleston 01 0 1 Flash Flood Streams and roads were flooded by thunderstorms. This round of storms was the final one over a two day period, bringing rainfall totals to near 8 inches in spots. Farm field flooding was extensive. A pickup truck attempting to cross a flooded roadway was swept into a ditch. The truck filled with water, temporarily submerging a young girl in the truck. The girl was flown to a hospital near St. Louis. **New Madrid County** 1700CST 2000CST **New Madrid** 01 6**K** Flash Flood A vehicle on Interstate 55 just south of Sikeston went out of control and into the St. Johns Bayou drainage ditch. A man pulled his wife to safety from the vehicle, then he fell back into the flooded ditch. His body was swept away and not recovered for over 24 hours. The wife was treated for injuries at a hospital. M65VE **Perry County** Perryville 01 1700CST 0 Flash Flood 2000CST Roads and streams were flooded by the final round of thunderstorms over a two day period. No severe problems were reported. **Ripley County** 1700CST 2000CST 0 Flash Flood Doniphan 01 Roads and streams were flooded, but no road closures or other severe problems occurred. **Scott County** Sikeston 01 Flash Flood Water was over some roads, 4 to 6 inches deep. Signs were posted to warn motorists. **Stoddard County** Dexter 01 20K Flash Flood High water prompted the closure of three roads. **Wayne County** Greenville 01 0 0 Flash Flood Roads and streams were flooded, but no severe problems were reported. This flooding was the result of numerous storms over a

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48-hour period.